

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5, 9-10, 13-15, and 17-18 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claim 16 stand objected to because it is redundant. Claim 16, however, is cancelled. The objection to claim 16, therefore, is moot.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 5, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kazuhiro (JP 2000-243254). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

At the outset, Claims 1 and 16 are amended to recite that the banks consist of protrusion portions which function as partitions. This subject matter is described at, for example, paragraph [0064]. No new matter has been added.

Kazuhiro does not anticipate either independent Claim 1 or independent Claim 16. That is, the banks according to the claimed invention act as partitions. In contrast, Kazuhiro discloses forming resin composition layers 32 for increasing a hydrophilic property of a light irradiated part, and for increasing a water-absorptive property of a metal composition solution on a surface of a substrate 1 by light irradiation, or by light irradiation and heating. This process applies the metal composition solution to the light irradiated part of the resin composition layer 32, as well as forms element electrodes 2 and 3 and a conductive film 4 by thermally decomposing the resin composition layer.

Please see the Abstract of Kazuhiro. There is no disclosure relative to the resin composition layers 32 including protrusion portions that act as partitions, as claimed. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that the resin composition layers 32 disclosed by Kazuhiro are not equivalent to the claimed banks.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that neither Claim 1 nor Claim 16 are anticipated by Kazuhiro.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection, therefore, are respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2, 3, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kazuhiro (JP 2000-243254) in view of Yudasaka (U.S. Pat. No. 6,476,988). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claims 9 and 14 were amended to include the limitations added to Claims 1 and 16. That is, independent Claims 9 and 14 now recite that the banks consist of protrusion portions which function as partitions. As stated above, Kazuhiro does not anticipate such a method. Yudasaka is also silent with respect to banks that consist of protrusion portions which function as partitions. Because this subject matter is neither taught nor suggested by either prior art reference, Applicant respectfully asserts that Claims 9 and 14, as well as their dependent claims would not have been obvious.

The remaining rejected claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 depend from either Claim 1 or Claim 16, addressed under the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102. These claims are neither anticipated nor obvious for at least the same reasons.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIMS

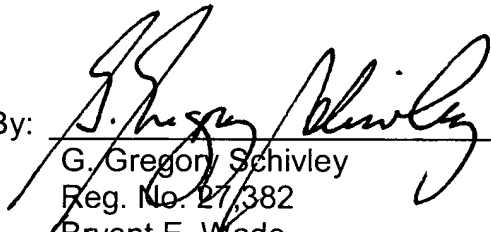
New Claim 18 is added. New Claim 18 recites the lyophilizing step includes using an O₂ plasma process to lyophilize at least one of the electrode-forming region and the conductive-layer forming region. This subject matter is described at, for example, paragraph [0068]. Neither cited reference teaches or suggests such a method. In contrast, Kazuhiro teaches a step of making the electrode-forming regions lyophilic by irradiating the regions with light. Irradiation with light is different than using an O₂ plasma process. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that new Claim 18 is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Mar 6, 2007

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